Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A system comprising:

a device; and

an apparatus for connecting a transmission line to ~~a device~~ the device, the transmission line having a connector at one end of the transmission line, the apparatus being part of, or being connected to the device, the apparatus including:

~~apparatus comprising:~~

(a) a receptacle for receiving the connector; and

(b) a sensor associated with the receptacle for detecting the presence of the connector within the receptacle;

~~(c) a signal detector for detecting signals communicated through the transmission line; and~~

the device including:

~~(d)~~ a controller that determines whether ~~signals communicated through~~ a signal indicating availability of the transmission line ~~have been detected by the signal detector~~ has been detected, wherein, when the controller determines that ~~signals communicated through~~ the signal indicating availability of the transmission line ~~have not been detected by the signal detector~~ has not been detected, the controller issues an inquiry as to whether the presence of the connector within the receptacle has been detected by the sensor ~~to be within the receptacle~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a device; and

~~An apparatus~~ an apparatus for connecting a transmission line to the device~~a device~~, the transmission line having a connector at one end of the transmission line, the apparatus being part of, or being connected to the device, the apparatus including:

~~apparatus comprising:~~

(a) a receptacle for receiving the connector; and

(b) a sensor associated with the receptacle for detecting the presence of the connector within the receptacle;

~~(c) a signal detector for detecting signals communicated through the transmission line; and~~

the device including:

~~(d)~~ a controller that determines whether a signal indicating availability of~~signals communicated through~~ the transmission line has been ~~have been~~ detected ~~by the signal detector~~, wherein, when the controller determines that the signal indicating availability of~~signals communicated through~~ the transmission line has not~~have not~~ been detected ~~by the signal detector~~, the controller issues an inquiry as to whether the presence of the connector within the receptacle has been detected by the sensor ~~to be within the receptacle~~,

wherein the sensor comprises a pressure switch within the receptacle.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~A system comprising:

a device; and

an apparatus for connecting a transmission line to ~~a device~~the device, the transmission line having a connector at one end of the transmission line, the apparatus being part of, or being connected to the device, the apparatus including:

~~apparatus comprising:~~

(a) a receptacle for receiving the connector; and

_____(b) a sensor associated with the receptacle for detecting the presence of the connector within the receptacle, wherein the sensor comprises an optical sensor within the receptacle,

_____the optical sensor comprising:

_____a light emitting device;

_____a light sensor; and

_____a mirror,

wherein:

when the connector is not present within the receptacle, the light sensor receives the light emitted from the light emitting device that has been reflected by the mirror; and

when the connector is present with in the receptacle, the connector blocks light passages between the light emitting device and the mirror, and between the mirror and the light sensor,

_____ the device including:

_____ a controller that determines whether a signal indicating availability of the transmission line has been detected, wherein, when the controller determines that the signal indicating availability of the transmission line has not been detected, the controller issues an inquiry as to whether the presence of the connector within the receptacle has been detected by the sensor.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 1, wherein the signal indicating availability of the transmission line is a~~the signal detector is for detecting a~~ telephone dial tone.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 1, wherein, in response to a signal from the sensor indicating that the connector is present within the receptacle, the controller determines~~, with the signal detector,~~ whether signals are being communicated through the transmission line.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 1, wherein the controller controls the sensor to determine whether the connector is present within the receptacle when the device is activated.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~system of claim 1, wherein the controller determines, at times other than on device activation, whether ~~controls the signal detector to detect~~ signals are being communicated through the transmission line ~~at times other than on device activation~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A printing machine capable of communicating with a network through a transmission line, the transmission line having a connector at one end of the transmission line, the printing machine comprising:

(a) a receptacle for receiving the connector;

(b) a sensor associated with the receptacle for detecting the presence of the connector within the receptacle;

(c) a sensor circuit, communicating with the detecting sensor, for transmitting a signal indicating whether the detecting sensor detects the presence of the connector; and

(d) ~~a signal detector for detecting signals communicated through the transmission line; and~~

~~(e)~~ a controller that determines whether ~~signals communicated through the~~a signal indicating availability of the transmission line ~~have been~~has been detected ~~by the~~

~~signal detector~~, wherein, when the controller determines that ~~that signals communicated through~~the signal indicating availability of ~~-~~the transmission line ~~have not~~ has not been detected by the signal detector, the controller issues an inquiry as to whether the presence of the connector within the receptacle has been detected by the sensor ~~to be within the receptacle~~.

11-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 1, wherein the device further ~~comprising~~ comprises a control panel that displays the inquiry issued from the controller.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~system of claim 2, wherein the device further ~~comprising~~ comprises a control panel that displays the inquiry issued from the controller.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ printing machine of claim 10, further comprising a control panel that displays the inquiry issued from the controller.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 21, wherein the control panel displays a message indicating that no signals communicated through the transmission line have been detected, and suggesting inspection of physical connection of the connector within the receptacle.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 22, wherein the control panel displays a message indicating that no signals communicated through the transmission line have been detected, and suggesting inspection of physical connection of the connector within the receptacle.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ printing machine of claim 23, wherein the control panel displays a message indicating that no signals communicated through the

transmission line have been detected, and suggesting inspection of physical connection of the connector within the receptacle.